



New Jersey School Boards Association

CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK

New School Board Members Need Criminal Background Check

State law *N.J.S.A. 18A:12-1 et seq.* requires school board members to undergo criminal background checks within 30 days of election or appointment.

Under the law, board members who do not complete the fingerprinting process within the 30-day period following election will be declared ineligible to serve in office. If the completed criminal history review reveals conviction(s) for any of the offenses listed in the statute, the individual will be disqualified from office.

Re-elected or reappointed school board members who have previously completed a background check and do not have a break in service on the same board do not have to repeat the process.

The New Jersey Department of Education Criminal History Review webpage is at www.state.nj.us/education/educators/crimhist/.

For additional information, contact the NJDOE Criminal History Review Unit at (609) 292-0507.

Legislation, (P.L. 2011, c.202), signed by Governor Christie on Jan. 17, 2012 gives communities the option to change the date of the annual school board member election to November. Please check with your local board of education office to confirm the date of the 2014 Annual School Election in your community.